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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa,
3 bulimia, eating disorders not otherwise specified, and binge
4 eating disorders are serious emotional disorders that can lead
5 to advanced physical illness and death if left untreated; and

6 WHEREAS, Anorexia nervosa is a particularly deadly
7 disease, and has the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric
8 disorder; and

9 WHEREAS, Clinical studies have revealed that eating
10 disorders among Illinois youth are increasing at an alarming
11 rate, with more than ten percent of adolescent girls and three
12 percent of boys binge eating or purging at least once a week;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, In the absence of treatment, twenty percent of all
15 those afflicted with advanced eating disorders will die as a
16 direct result; and

17 WHEREAS, Early detection, diagnosis, and comprehensive
18 treatment greatly increases the likelihood of a successful
19 recovery; and

20 WHEREAS, Eating disorders are multifaceted and complex

1 conditions, typically requiring a comprehensive balance of
2 medical and mental health treatment; and

3 WHEREAS, Substance abuse often accompanies eating
4 disorders, with alcoholism a contributing factor in more than
5 half of the cases involving female patients under age 30; and

6 WHEREAS, The chronic and repetitive pattern that
7 characterizes eating disorders necessitates more than one
8 course of treatment; and

9 WHEREAS, Comprehensive treatment by professionals in a
10 clinical setting is proven to save lives and assist patients in
11 returning to emotional and physical health; and

12 WHEREAS, The nature of this complex disease is such that
13 persistent treatment after physical symptoms subside is often
14 indicated, and patients remain susceptible to relapse if
15 treatment is terminated prematurely; and

16 WHEREAS, Greater availability of treatment programs and
17 comprehensive coverage of complete treatment protocols are
18 needed today to save the lives of a growing number of
19 adolescents and adults who are silently struggling with this
20 potentially fatal disease; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 hereby recognize February 25, 2009 as the inaugural Eating
4 Disorders Awareness Day in the State of Illinois, and we invite
5 all Illinoisans to join in observance of this day through
6 appropriate programs and activities directed toward the
7 prevention and recovery of eating disorders; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That we support the National Eating Disorder
9 Association's "States for Treatment Access and Research"
10 Program in its goal of advancing public support for programs to
11 increase the availability of care for individuals with eating
12 disorders; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the National Eating Disorder Association in
15 recognition of its outstanding work on this important public
16 health issue.